

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02877 231401 Z

62

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /064 W

----- 011357

R 231230 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1958

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2877

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TUNISIAN ROLE IN US- LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 0674

1. WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH TRIPOLI (PARA 5 REFTEL) THAT TUNISIAN ROLE IN US - LIBYAN DIALOGUE WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FROM OUR STANDPOINT. MASMOUDI HIMSELF MIGHT WELL BE WILLING TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY, BUT HE WOULD BE MOTIVATED, WE SUSPECT, PRIMARILY BY PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS. WE ARE NOT SO SURE, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS STILL AS CLOSE TO QADHAFI AS HE WAS PREVIOUSLY. IN MY LAST CONVERSATION WITH HIM, HE SEEMED GENUINELY SHOCKED BY SOME OF QADHAFI' S MOST RECENT MOVES. HE COMPARED QADHAFI TO HITLER; THIS COULD REFLECT SOME IDEAS HE PICKED UP ON HIS MOSCOW VISIT, OR HE COULD ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY TENDENCY WE HAVE NOTED AMONG FRENCH LEFTISH INTELLECTUALS (TO WHOM MASMOUDI IS CLOSE) TO DRAW SAME COMPARISON.

2. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS WORTHWHILE POINTING OUT THAT PRIMIN JALLUD WILL BE VISITING TUNIS MAY 29-30. WE ASSUME THAT THIS VISIT IS FOLLOWUP ON JOINT TUNISIAN-LIBYAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER QADHAFI' S DECEMBER VISIT HERE. IF THIS IS CASE, JALLUD WILL BE MEETING PRIMARILY WITH PRIMIN NOUIRA, AND NOUIRA IS NO MASMOUDI. WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE ASK NOUIRA TO INTERVENE
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 02877 231401 Z

WITH JALLUD ON OUR BEHALF. WE DOUBT THAT NOUIRA WOULD REALLY WANT TO DO SO AT THIS STAGE, THOUGH WE BELIVE HE WOULD IF WE ASKED HIM. WE NEVERTHELESS WISH TO FLAG THIS POSSIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT AND TRIPOLI.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT TO BLAKE. AF/ N.
RELPH

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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